

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W

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R 021215Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6588

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1008

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PDIP, GB, US

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE

FOR AMBASSADOR STEIGMAN FROM CHARGE

REF: STATE 150988

1. PLEASED THAT YOU AND FAMILY WILL BE ARRIVING ON JULY 21. HAVE INFORMALLY INFORMED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF YOUR ARRIVAL TIME, AND ALTHOUGH IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WITH CERTAINTY SINCE PRESIDENT OUT OF TOWN, HE SCHEDULED TO BE IN LIBREVILLE WEEK OF 21ST AND MFA EXPECTS YOU WILL PRESENT CREDENTIALS THAT WEEK. (FYI. IF PRESIDENT DECIDES TO ATTEND OAU MEETING, HE WOULD MOST LIKELY LEAVE JULY 26 OR 27.)

2. UNDER NEW SYSTEM, RECENTLY ADOPTED BECAUSE OF INCREASE IN NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO GABON, AMBASSADOR DOES NOT RPT NOT GIVE SPEECH AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY. HE IS ALSO NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED TO PREPARE SPEECH FOR EXCHANGE AS IS DONE IN WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS LIMITED TO SINGLE SENTENCE ALONG LINE OF QUOTE. I AM HAPPY TO PRESENT YOU WITH MY LETTERS OF CREDENCE, ETC. END QUOTE. BOTH FRENCH AND RUSSIAN EMBASSIES, WHOSE AMBASSADORS HAVE RECENTLY PRESENTED CREDENTIALS, CONFIRMED THIS PROCEDURE.

3. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, OR HIS ASSISTANT IF CHIEF NOT IN
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TOWN, WILL BE AT AIRPORT TO GREET YOU UPON ARRIVAL. WILL

ADVISE BEFORE ARRIVAL AS TO EXACTLY WHOM IT WILL BE.
GABON MATIN HAS PUBLISHED USIA ARTICLE ON YOUR SWEARING
IN CEREMONY, AND PAO HAS PROVIDED PRESS WITH COPIES OF
YOUR BIOGRAPHY, WILL BE PROVIDING PICTURE AND HAS INFORMED
THEM OF YOUR ARRIVAL TIME. CHARGE AND PAO BELIEVE THAT,
IN VIEW OF YOUR UNOFFICIAL STATUS UNTIL YOU HAVE PRESENTED
LETTERS, YOU SHOULD AVOID ANY SORT OF FORMAL STATEMENT AT
AIRPORT. HOWEVER, IF ASKED, WE SEE NO REASON WHY YOU
SHOULD NOT RESPOND TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS OF JOURNALISTS.

4. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THREE WEEKS.
BAAS

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